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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 3, Iss. 10)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."

—Job. 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers
of the world
unite! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

Vol. III. No. 10

New York, Friday, March 4, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

SETTLED DRESS AND WAIST SHOPS PLEDGE LIMITLESS AID TO STRIKERS

A very inspiring meeting of shop chairmen of all the waist and dress shops in Greater New York was held on Tuesday evening, March 1st, at Beethoven Hall. The meeting was called together by the General Strike Committee and was presided over by Brother Harry Berlin of Local No. 10, its chairman.

The meeting was held for the purpose of reacting a report on the general situation in the strike. A number of recommendations from the General Strike Committee, bearing on the conduct of the strike, were brought forth and acted upon. Chairman Berlin declared, in the name of the General Strike Committee, that the Joint Board of the Waist and

Dress Industry will commence paying strike benefits to all strikers who are still engaged in the conflict with some of the obstinate "open shop" bosses, beginning this week.

Strike benefit will be paid to single people at the rate of \$10 a week and to married persons at \$12 a week. To raise a strike benefit fund, the General Strike Committee proposed that all the waist and dress makers working in settled shops be taxed as follows: A worker earning up to \$25 a week shall pay \$1 a week; those earning more than \$25 a week to pay \$1.50.

In the debate that developed on this proposal, not a single voice was raised against the tax. On the other

hand, many considered it too low an assessment and demanded an even higher tax. After a detailed discussion, the proposal of the committee was adopted unanimously amidst a storm of applause.

Brothers Sigman and Berlin also made a strong appeal to the chairmen to carry out strictly the rule that all workers in the settled shops aid the strikers in picketing. The net result of the meeting was that all the workers in the trade, through their shop representatives, have pledged themselves financially and morally to aid the strike with all their resources until the stubbornness of the anti-union bosses will be broken down.

N. Y. Cloakmakers Give \$10,000 Weekly to Amalgamated Strikers

Readers of "Justice" are familiar with the decision of the Executive Board of our International, to donate two hours of work for the support of the valiant Amalgamated strikers in New York City. The Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union has received this decision with enthusiasm and it is now being carried out into practice.

It is but natural that the Cloakmakers of New York, who are always in the front rank when a great and compelling cause calls upon the labor movement to perform its duty, did not remain backward in this situation as well. A number of shops have already collected the money earned during these two hours and these funds have already been turned over to the Amalgamated.

In the course of the last ten days a check for \$20,000 has been sent to the Amalgamated strike committee. Brother Philip Kaplowitz, the Treasurer of the Joint Board, is in charge of the collection of this fund, and according to his judgment, the cloakmakers of New York will hand over, within the next few weeks, to their brother workers in the clothing industry a very substantial sum of money.

It is needless to remind the shop chairmen in all the cloak and reefer industry, those who have with

such unanimity and enthusiasm adopted the resolution to support the Amalgamated strikers, that they continue unceasingly to agitate for the two hour fund. We wish to call attention to the fact that a special stamp, printed by the International, will be issued to every man and woman upon turning over their two hours' earnings to the chairmen, and these stamps will be pasted upon their books as a badge of honor.

The International office has forwarded on Tuesday morning, March 1st, a telegraphic appeal to all the joint boards and local unions throughout the country, to make a special effort to collect this two hour tax for the Amalgamated strikers, during the next week or two.

In this appeal, which was signed by President Schlesinger, and Secretary Brady, it is pointed out that only speedily aid is indicated in a situation like that confronting the Amalgamated strikers of New York City. The General Office is confident that our membership all over the country will respond as one person to this appeal and will aid the Amalgamated in its present critical situation, when it is persecuted and attacked on all sides by the employers, court injunctions and a bitterly prejudiced press.

Boston, Cincinnati and Toledo Cloak Strikers Still Continue

The strike of the cloakmakers in Boston is not yet at an end. Most of the workers who have gone out on strike are back at work, it is true, and in the settled shops full union conditions prevail. There still remain out about 15 shops, employing 350 workers. All of these belong to the group of manufacturers who have bandaged themselves into an association.

Last week, President Schlesinger spent several days in Boston, at a conference with a committee of the association. In spite of the friendly spirit that prevailed at the conference, no settlement was arrived at. The workers are being paid full strike benefit and are receiving the en-

tire moral and financial support from the parent organization.

The strikes in Cincinnati and Toledo, under the leadership of Vice-President Lefkowitz, still continue. The firm of Bishop, Sterne & Stein in Cincinnati is still engaged in looking for contractors in New York City to have its work made. The Cincinnati Joint Board, however, has succeeded in thwarting their attempts with the aid of the New York Joint Board. It sent a representative to New York, Brother Joseph Guterman, who is keeping watch over the prospective places where the Cincinnati strike work might be made.

PETTICOAT WORKERS DEMAND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

As a result of a number of meetings of shop chairladies and members held in the course of last week in the petticoat trade, the sentiment has been crystallizing among the workers in the industry, that the time was ripe for a definite move to secure union agreements from the employers in the trade and to put the shops on a basis of union standards and conditions.

There are about 75 petticoat firms in New York City employing from 3,000 to 4,000 workers. Conditions in these shops are much inferior to any in the other women's wear factories of the city. The International is prepared at present to back up the demands of the petticoat workers, and if necessary, carry through a general strike for the enforcement of its demands.

On March 1st, the following letter, signed by President Schlesinger, was addressed to the petticoat employers of Greater New York:

Gentlemen:
Two attempts have been made by the workers in the petticoat industry of New York to induce restrictive bargaining in the trade, in order to insure fair dealing between the employers and the workers and to eliminate harmful competition in the industry through the use of unscrupulous labor standards in all shops. These attempts were met with indifference owing to the fact that a number of employers have chosen to antagonize our object, and chosen to antagonize the workers. We are confident that we are the only group in the industry who are on the basis of the industry's accepted principles of collective bargaining. The workers, which are the basis of the Union, had enough to do, and have done so to the industry and have caused considerable discussion and injury to all sides concerned. The position of the workers upon the question of restrictive bargaining has not undergone any change or variation. We are just as determined to introduce it now as we were before, and are just as eager to avoid strife in connection with the situation of it. We, therefore, take pleasure in inviting you to confer with us on the matter at an early date—individually, or in a group, or through a committee representing the workers in the industry collectively, or such an organization exists or is to be formed. We trust that you will fully understand the position of the workers, and that you will be able to write, and that you will respond to the workers' spirit of readiness to cooperate with us. We shall await your reply by next Monday, March 1st.

The letter speaks for itself. It is actuated by a desire to avert, if possible, a conflict in the trade. But it is just as firm and determined to unionize the petticoat industry and to put it on par, as far as conditions and standards go, with every other women's garment trade in the city.

CHILDREN'S DRESSMAKERS MOBILIZE FORCES

The Children's Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 50, has declared a mobilization in the trade. A feverish activity is going on at present in that local for a general strike and to compel the employers in the trade to assume responsibility for improved trade conditions.

Readers of "Justice" will recall that several months ago the employers in this industry have broken the agreement with the union. This took place at a time when there was little work in the trade and the union, not being able to retaliate, was compelled to wait for a better chance.

The time has now come. According to Brother Harry Greenberg, the manager of the union, the shops are humming with work at present and the workers in the shops are restless and ready to walk out at the first call of the union. On Thursday, March 3rd, a great mass meeting will take place at Cooper Union, at which the children's dressmakers from every section of the city—Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn and Brownsville—will discuss the clauses of an agreement to be proposed to the employers. The meeting will also decide what steps the union is to take in case the employers show reluctance in accepting this agreement. There is little doubt that the answer of the meeting to such a refusal will be a general strike. The meeting will be addressed by the following speakers: President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff, Congressman Meyer, Editor Yanovsky, and several others. Brother Harry Greenberg, the manager of the union, will be the chairman.

Should the meeting decide to call a strike, it will be a general strike for the entire industry. All the shops in the trade, the organized as well as the unorganized, will be brought to a standstill.

MONTREAL RAINCOAT MAKERS ON STRIKE

As we go to press, we have received a telegram from the Joint Board in Montreal that the raincoat makers of that city have gone out on a general strike.

No details are indicated in this dispatch. We have known for quite some time that the raincoat employers of Montreal have been looking for trouble and harrassing their workers in a number of shops. On one occasion a shop was on strike for several months to resist a reduction in wages.

We shall be in a position to give more details about this strike in the next issue of "Justice."

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

THE DEFIANCE OF THE ERIE

A CASE of general interest to organized labor is at present pending before the Railroad Labor Board at Chicago.

After the setback received by the railroads in their attempts to order a general cut in wages through the refusal of the Railroad Labor Board to grant such a drastic measure, the Erie Railroad has ordered, on its own account, a reduction of 27 per cent. in wages of common laborers and the deduction of one day's pay a week from the salaries of all employees paid on a monthly scale. Quite naturally, the workers resented this arbitrary act and brought the case at once before the Labor Board. The railroad representatives argued that the intent of the order was to maintain the rates of wages as of July, 1920; but they pleaded business depression and a number of similar excuses. At the same time, the attorneys for the railroad denied the power of the Board to continue the present wage rates and questioned its enforcement powers. Moreover, the attorneys admitted that the reduction order would be allowed to stand despite the Board's ruling.

This defiant attitude on the part of one of the greatest railway systems in the East with regard to a definite ruling by the Federal Railroad Commission is but another instance of how reverently these huge combinations of capital hold law and order and the restraints which these impose. An open defiance of this kind if issued by a labor organization or a labor leader, would most certainly result in the speedy fining of such an offender for contempt of court. The Erie, however, worries little about such small matters like the contempt of a legally constituted federal board. It takes these chances lightly, because it is conscious of its strength and of the great vested interests of capital it represents.

DISCIPLINING DEBS

THE newspapers last week carried Washington dispatches to the effect that Debs was to have mail and visitors again and that the restriction imposed upon his privileges at the Atlanta Federal Prison was to be ended within a week.

These news items brought to light the rather little known fact that in the past several weeks, since President Wilson had refused to pardon Debs for the last time, the Socialist and labor leader was held practically incommunicado, having been denied, by special order from Washington, to write to his wife weekly, as he used to do, and even to see his lawyer upon occasion.

It appears that this punishment was visited upon Debs as a disciplinary measure because of an interview he had given to the press after Wilson's refusal to pardon him in which he did not mince words in characterizing the President's action. This punishment of Debs is regarded as an act of petty revenge upon a defiant political prisoner who had steadfastly refused, by even the slightest word or act, to show penitence for what he had done or said in the past. This is particularly more disgusting in view of the fact that Debs has been a model prisoner during the two years of his confinement in the Atlanta dungeon and is being held in esteem and reverence by the officials and inmates of the prison.

RELIEVING THE POOR RAILROADS

IN the rush hours of the closing Congress session, there has passed the House and the Senate a bill providing for the immediate payment of

about \$350,000,000 to the railroads of this country "as money due to them under the terms of the guaranty given during federal control." A vehement protest against the granting of this huge sum of money to the railroads was immediately telegraphed to President Wilson by the Railway Department of the American Federation of Labor, asking that the bill be vetoed. This protest was adopted at a similar protest was adopted at the conference of the heads of the various international unions of the Federation, which met in Washington several days ago.

In their protest, the railway unions charge that the roads were endeavoring, under the threat of a complete breakdown of the transportation industry, to levy a tribute of hundreds of millions of dollars on the treasury of the United States. They add, that the railroad owners shall not be permitted to enjoy the financial benefits of the Transportation Act until they have demonstrated their willingness to guarantee humane rights to their workers.

The railway unions further charge that the owners of the railways have denied the workers the fundamental industrial right of collective bargaining, and with every resource at their command they seek to destroy trade unionism. It reminds the President that the railway workers have accepted the Transportation Act under protest, but they, nevertheless, are endeavoring to comply with it in all good faith and honesty, and they ask nothing but what is clearly written in the law and equality before that law. A grant of hundreds of millions of dollars of public money to the railroads at the present time would only encourage the financial oligarchy which controls the railroads in its policy, which is a menace to the entire economic structure of the country.

It seems, however, barely possible that the voice of the railroad unions will be heeded in this case, and their protest will very likely be ignored, as have been many others during the past year or two. It is a safe guess that this rat upon the treasury, sanctioned by the House and the Senate, will receive the final approval of the outgoing President.

THE PRUSSIAN ELECTIONS

THE blind obstinacy of these European politicians who were charged with the task of punishing the people of Germany through colossal indemnities and reparations, is apparently bearing fruit. The recently announced terms of the German indemnity, amounting to hundreds of billions in gold marks, has served as another blow to the republican government in Germany, as evidenced in the returns from the elections to the Prussian Parliament.

The organization of the old militarists, the fire-eating junkers, has, in these elections gained heavily at the expense of the Republican and Socialist parties. The immediate result of these elections can be seen in the raising of the hopes of the monarchists for the overthrow of the present republican regime and the substitution of a monarchy thereafter. In Bavaria and Saxony, the monarchists speak and act openly. The weakening of the republican forces in Prussia will add strength to their position. Doubtless, public opinion in Germany, under the pressure of the indemnity demands, is swinging towards the extreme ends of the Right and the Left, far more rapidly to the Right than to the Left. And if these indemnities are persisted upon and carried out, the prospect of the overthrow of the

German republic by a monarchist and reactionary cabal seems quite feasible.

CO-OPERATIVE LABOR ENTERPRISES

A FORM of cooperative coal mining has proven to be a success at Dugger, Ind., according to authoritative reports from the United States Bureau of Mines.

The mine property referred to was leased eight years ago by a group of miners. These men are members of the United Mine Workers, and only those who actually mine and load coal are admitted to membership. All business transactions are handled by two committees, a finance committee and a policy committee. The superintendent of the mine is paid a monthly salary equal to one-tenth of the sum of the earnings of the ten miners receiving the highest pay for the month. This naturally encourages close supervision and efficiency on the part of that official. If a partner, or cooperator decides to sever his relations with the company, his earnings are paid up in full and his share of the company's stock, for which he has paid by assessments, is refunded. It is said there is always a waiting list of day workers, eager to take the place of any miner who resigns.

Trouble arises occasionally among the day men of this mine, at elsewhere. And when these differences cannot be settled between the day men and a committee representing the co-operative, all work is stopped. The miners who comprise the cooperative put down their tools and come out with their strikers and mine the coal until the difference has been arbitrated by the executive board of the miners' union.

A labor-owned silk mill, to be operated under the name of the Mammoth Spun Silk Corporation, with a possible capitalization of \$3,000,000, is being projected by officials of the United Textile Workers of America. The plan has been outlined in a public statement recently made by the officials of the workers' organization. The industry would represent the workers' endeavor to meet their problems of fluctuating wages and seasonal unemployment.

The majority of the stock of the corporation will be owned by members of the United Textile Workers or other unions. The officers and directors will be members of the executive board of the workers' organization. A location has not yet been definitely determined. Several cities in Rhode Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are under consideration.

MEXICAN RAILWAYS TIED UP

THE fact that the entire railway system of Mexico is on strike at present is known but little to the general public. A tight censorship, or similar sinister methods, have prevented this news from becoming widespread in the United States. The fact, however, remains that more than 125,000 railway employees have gone out on strike last week, and the transportation system of Mexico is practically at a standstill. Strike breakers recruited from volunteers and soldiers, are attempting to man trains under military protection with little success, here and there.

The chief point of contention between the railway workers and the Mexican government, for the railways in Mexico are federal property, is the recognition of the men's union by the authorities. This dispute is practically the only reason for the walk-out, and the settlement of the strike will depend on how long the government will persist in its stubborn attitude, not to recognize the men's union. The railway workers in Mexico are thoroughly organized and it seems hardly possible that the Mexican authorities will be able to run trains without them. The Obregon Govern-

ment, in addition, has claimed right sleep to be a friend of the workers, and a flagrant display of an anti-union policy will only tend to undermine whatever confidence the Mexican workers had heretofore had in it.

WHO IS DAVIS?

IT has been announced from Washington that the next Secretary of Labor in the Harding cabinet will be one, James J. Davis, supposedly a labor man, of Pittsburgh, Pa. It appears that years ago this Davis, at present an influential Republican politician and banker in Pittsburgh, had belonged to the iron workers' organization. His present labor affiliations are, however, very slender, so slender, indeed, that he became at once the favored candidate of the conservative element at Washington for the Labor post. This appointment, however, has stirred the wrath of labor leaders all over the country.

The post of Secretary of Labor has been held, for one reason or another, to be the tenure of the American Federation of Labor since the appointment of the present incumbent, William B. Wilson, eight years ago. The nomination of Davis has quite naturally provoked resentment. It is difficult to imagine what a man of his type could contribute to the development and expansion of the only executive department in the government which is supposed to attend to the needs of the workers.

At that, it is perhaps a pretty fair gauge of the attention which the incoming administration intends to pay to the interests of labor in general. From a banker as Secretary of Labor, the workers of the country will expect very little and will not be disappointed in their meager expectations.

WILL THE SEAMEN STRIKE?

THE possibility of a nation-wide strike of officers and seamen on American ships on May 1st, upon the expiration of the existing working agreements between ship owners and deep-sea seamen, is becoming more and more apparent.

The American Steamship Owners Association, which represents virtually all American owned tonnage, advised the Federal Shipping Board that it was "adverse to entering into a general conference with the unions at this time," after the Board had notified the Association that it had been requested by the Unions to call such a conference to consider working agreements for the coming fiscal year.

The ship owners claim that they are determined to "eliminate some expenses" from the cost of operations, and that the existing scale of wages is too high and the provision for overtime pay is seriously objectionable. While no official statement has been made by the Union yet, it is understood that the workers will demand renewals of the existing scales of wages and hours, with some modifications. The agreement with the deckhands and engine-room forces expires May 1 and with the deck officers on August 1.

That the deep sea workers will not consent to reductions in wages without a fight is a foregone conclusion, and the only thing that will prevent a conflict is a change of stand on the part of the ship owners and a general desire not to plunge the overseas transportation industry into a prolonged strike.

BUY

WHITE LILY TEA
COLUMBIA TEA
ZWETOCHNI CHAI

Exclusively

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

By ABRAHAM BAROFF

The conference summoned by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor on February 22nd and 24th was marked by a spirit of unusual earnestness. It was called together for the purpose of affording the organized workers of America an opportunity to voice its opinion with regard to the present industrial crisis. The conference began on Wednesday morning, February 22nd, in the Executive Chamber of the Federation Building. It was attended by over 200 delegates representing all international unions affiliated with the Federation. Before the opening of the conference, a roll call was had which gave the assembly the aspect of a regular convention.

The first thing that drew my attention after the roll call was announced, was the fact that the hundreds of thousands of Jewish workers in New York City were represented only by two delegates, Morris Kaufman, the president of the International Furriers' Union, and to a certain extent by myself. President Schleisner was scheduled to attend the conference, but owing to pressing business in Boston, in connection with the clock strike coming in that city, he could not come to Washington on that day.

The conference was presided over by President Gompers. He delivered the opening speech with enthusiasm and strength. Yet, I had no difficulty in observing that he was not the Gompers of yore. The ravages of age have made deep inroads upon his powerful personality, too. Nevertheless, he still possesses enough vigor and personal magnetism, and he held the conference completely under his control. In explaining the purpose of this extraordinary meeting, he made clear to the delegates that in point of importance and significance this is the fourth gathering in the history of the A. F. of L.

The majority of the delegates are of the same cast and type as meet at the annual conventions of the A. F. of L., the same that have attended a similar conference a little over a year ago, in December, 1919, in this very same building in Washington. Nevertheless, the spirit prevailing at this conference was a great deal better and distinctly dif-

ferent from the spirit of the conference of 1919.

An unusual stillness prevailed at the opening session. All delegates sat there wrapt in attention, listening to the clauses of the manifesto that were being read by the secretary. The document was meant to be the "bill of rights," the credo of organized labor at the present hour. It was meant as a reply to the arrogant "open shop" movement of the employers, as a reply to the courts against persecution by injunctions, and simultaneously an attack upon the "extreme radicals" who directly or indirectly, as the document stated, have undertaken to "aid reaction in its campaign to destroy the existing unions."

The reading of the document came to an end. The same stillness prevailed in the hall as at the beginning of the reading. It seemed as if all the delegates were quite satisfied with every part of the manifesto and that no discussion would be had. It appears that none of the delegates were even in any way disturbed by the demand for the prohibition of immigration for a period of not less than two years contained in the manifesto.

President Gompers then called upon the assembled to find out whether they had anything to say regarding the document. Silence reigned in the room and it looked certain that the "bill of rights" would be adopted without a murmur. I felt a stir within me. I have listened attentively to the reading of the manifesto and I was convinced that there was a lot of good in it. Yet, there was too in it a lot that I thought was bad, intermixed with the good that it contained. There was a vigorous attack upon the employers and upon the judges who indiscriminately are firing injunctions at labor in times of individual strife. I recall the sharp terms of protest, the revolutionary appeal to disregard these injunctions as matters what the consequences might be. But alongside with these noble pronouncements I heard false words, a demand to cut off immigration, an attack upon the radicals, and I felt that the chaff and the wheat is badly mixed up in this document, and I perceived a desire to speak my mind freely upon this. I looked around me, scanning

the faces of the assembled, and inquiring of myself: "Will they help me; will they aid me in my attempt?" But the time is brief and it cannot be wasted by meditating. The hammer of the chairman might soon descend and the document will be adopted without discussion.

I rose from my seat and demanded the floor. In my talk I endeavored to point out the error that was made in the framing of this manifesto of the organized workers of America. And I appealed to the delegates to separate the good from the bad and to strengthen this appeal by casting out what is evil and undesirable in this document. I pointed out that if there are "extreme radicals" in the unions who seek to destroy them, each union can very well take care of them by itself and that it must not be made the official policy of the pointed out, too, the bad impression that this placing side by side of the capitalist names and of the "inner enemy, the extreme radical" would make upon the labor world. I also spoke about the harmful effects of the ban on immigration, pointing out the error contained the assumption that the new arrivals are making things worse in this country, aside from the inhumane part of the proposal to close the gates of America for those who are seeking refuge from the hell that is raging all over Europe.

My remarks brought some results after all. A discussion arose, participated in by a number of delegates, among some of them the most intelligent representatives of the American labor movement. Most of them opposed my views, but here and there I found some supporters. John P. Frey, the general secretary of the Moulders' International Union, replied in a very intelligent manner. He made a vehement attack on the communists, pointing out that those who "alliance with the Third International" at Moscow are out for the destruction of the existing trade unions and that the extreme radicals must be, therefore, fought to a standstill. Many others spoke in the same strain. President Johnson of the International Association of Machinists, on the contrary, supported my views. He thought that the European radical

propaganda held no menace for America. "The American spies and agents provocateur are a greater menace for our unions," he said. "These work within our ranks and influence our members in a disastrous manner." Johnson was for the amending of that part of the document, in accordance with my proposal. Andrew Furuseth, the president of the International Seamen's Union, spoke in a similar tenor, and a few more delegates.

The discussion developed at quite a lively pace, but what difference! When it came to a vote, only a few delegates, in addition to myself, voted for the amendments, the overwhelming majority accepting the document without any changes. What tended to make the vote for the adoption of the clause against the "extreme radicals" still more unanimous, was a statement on behalf of the Executive Council of the Federation that they were in possession of undeniable evidence to the effect that these "extreme radicals" were receiving subsidies from a "European government" to go on with their destructive work—to wreck the existing unions belonging to the Federation.

Insofar as I am concerned, I can state that I am not altogether disappointed with the outcome of the conference. The document was after all not accepted unanimously, which would have been the case had I not raised my objections. Secondly, many other delegates have agreed with my point of view, even though they did not vote with me because they were incensed against those extremists who would sow dissensions in the unions now when the fight between capital and labor is so sharp and keen.

In general, it was very pleasant to note the improved atmosphere which prevailed at this gathering. The impression was unmistakable that the genuine American labor movement was making headway in spite of the difficulties of the period and of trying industrial conditions. Time, the unfailing teacher, is changing gradually the spirit of the leaders of the labor movement. The movement proceeds forward, though slowly, and its spokesmen must eventually come to see the true light upon their path,—the light that leads to the realization of our great ideal, the liberation of the working class and of all mankind from oppression and exploitation.

Activities in Local No. 3

By C. SHATZBERG

We wish to give here a resume of the reports of the complaints which were adjusted by our office from January 19th to February 17th; that is, from the time of the amalgamation of Locals No. 3 and No. 80 to the day when the Joint Board took over the control of the ladies' tailors' shops.

All in all, we have had 69 to 80 complaints, which can be divided into five classes: 1. Discharges; 2. Attempts at reduction of wages, and, in some instances, also at an increase in the working week from 44 to 48 hours; 3. Attempts to introduce piece instead of week work; 4. Unequal division of work; and 5. Non-payment for legal holidays. As you will see below, all the complaints were settled to the satisfaction of the Union, even though in some instances we were compelled to resort to drastic measures.

Typical complaints were received with reference to the following firms: Gonsfield & Cohen, 722 Lexington Avenue. Under the pretext of "reorganizing" the shop and changing from ladies' tailoring to cloak making, they discharged their workers. Upon application to the Joint Board, however, they were informed of the con-

ditions attached to a change in the system of work, after which they came to the local and asked the workers to return to work.

D. Block, Second Avenue, discharged two workers. At a shop meeting it was ascertained that the men were discharged because they refused to agree to a reduction in wages; it was also ascertained that the firm does not generally like to pay for legal holidays. There was nothing, therefore, for us to do but to declare a strike in the shop. After a few days Mr. Block was compelled to concede all our demands, and the men returned to work. In the end a little tragedy, which may serve as an example to those to allow themselves to be used as tools against their fellow-workers, took place. When the strike was called, Mr. Block succeeded in obtaining two seals from the notorious "scab academy" of Milgrim Bros. Very soon, however, he realized that with only two men he would not be able to get out his work for the season. He, therefore, agreed to a speedy settlement, and the two unlucky souls were discharged.

A number of firms discharged workers under a score of pretences.

Upon investigation of the complaints, we succeeded in having all the workers reinstated. A characteristic occurrence took place in the firm of Klugman. Upon examining their pay envelopes the workers found a notice informing them that beginning February 1st they would receive \$5.00 a week less. We quickly succeeded in reaching a satisfactory settlement in this case. Similar incidents occurred in the shops of Livingston & Wiener in Brooklyn, Weingarten & Pearl, Shotz-Power and Kanefsky. In all these shops the workers are now receiving their regular prices.

In all the shops where attempts were made to introduce the piece work system we were successful, without much difficulty, in reaching satisfactory settlements, with the exception of the firm of Frank Blasse. Mr. Blasse, in whose case a strike is now being conducted, offered his workers the following alternative: either a 48-hour work week, or, if they insist upon the 44-hour week, the piece work system. Of course, there was nothing for us to do but to declare the shop on strike. Mr. Blasse already feels the consequences of making such offers to his workers, and we

are sure that very soon he will be asking his men to come back to work.

A number of employers have tried to create disharmony among their workers by an unequal distribution of work, but we have succeeded in satisfying all complaints on this score. The same can also be said of cases in which attempts were made at reduction of price or for non-payment for legal holidays. We have collected back pay in every case. During this comparatively short period we have collected \$298.22 in back pay. During this period we have made approximately 150 controls and conducted 68 shop meetings. In the course of the controls, it was ascertained that the firm of I. Simkin, of Lexington Avenue, had organized a corporation shop with the employees. We are sure that this scheme is not destined to live long. Our Executive Board has, however, decided to strike off from the membership list the members of the corporation and to declare the shop a scab nest so that our members shall avoid it. The shop of Feinman, on Lexington Avenue, has also been declared a scab shop, and although our Executive Board has not found it necessary to have these shops picketed, we are informing our members of this condition.

(Continued on page 7)

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

THE WASHINGTON LABOR CONFERENCE

Our hopes in the Washington Conference of the chiefs of American organized labor have not all been realized. The bill of Labor's rights and grievances adopted by this Conference, it is true, rings trenchant and is eloquently phrased. It, nevertheless, bears unmistakable evidence of Labor's lack of confidence in its own strength, as it is predicated wholly upon an appeal to the public in general "to join organized labor in its defense of our institutions which are confronted by a grave menace."

Organized labor has heretofore concerned itself principally with the defense of the workers' rights and interests, the raising of wages, the shortening of the workday and the struggle for a greater degree of control of working conditions in the shop. In shifting the weight of its protest towards "the defense of our institutions," Labor tends rather to confuse the mind of the "public" than to clarify it. There has recently been poured upon the heads of this "Public" a lavish propaganda engineered by organized capital in which this selfsame "Public" was being appealed to to join hands with the employers in the "defense of our sacred institutions," among which there was included, of course, the "open shop," or the "American shop," the quintessence of the philosophy of industrial scabbery. In its war upon American trade unionism, the predatory interests of capital are hiding, as they always were wont to, behind an assumed pose of saviors of our institutions. Now comes the American Federation of Labor with a declaration which practically assumes the identical position of eagerness and anxiety for our threatened institutions. And the dear "Public" stands there gaping widely at these two contending forces bidding for its support upon similar motivations, and unable to make up its mind as to which "saviours of our country" it is to join in this crusade.

"Labor speaks from no narrow or selfish point of view. It speaks from the standpoint of American citizenship." Organized capital, in its open warfare against labor uses the same language. It declares that trade unionism is "un-American" and that it must be fought by all good citizens. Of course, the workers have a great stake in the political and national institutions of the country in which they live and produce. But it is their personal interests, the interest to see that the product of their labor is not robbed from them that is supreme and above all. And this they need not be ashamed of or hide under a mask or a cloak.

Then comes the second statement in the declaration concerning the two destructive forces between which the organized democratic labor movement of America finds itself—"conscienceless autocracy of industry" and "the followers of radical European fanaticism." Both these terms lack, in our opinion, definiteness and clarity. Who are these "conscienceless" autocrats of industry? Are they only a few of the big inveterate opponents of organized labor, or are they the entire army of organized fleecers and exploiters? If it is the first, then, the calamity is not so great, after all; these have always been with us. And if it is the second, why not plainly say so instead of referring only to the "conscienceless" among them?

And who are these other enemies, the "followers of radical European fanaticism?" We surmise that reference is had in this case to the local "Bolsheviks" or communists. Are they really such a menace to American trade unionism? Are we to believe that American trade unionism, so deeply rooted in American industrial life, with an army of five million workers behind it, is really afraid of a handful of communists and is putting them on par, as a menace, with organized capital? Or is this pronouncement but another rehearsal of credo on the part of the Federation that it is still the strongest opponent of "radical European fanaticism, which is particularly and peculiarly deadly in its hatred of the American Labor movement because of its democratic character and its steadfast refusal to adopt revolutionary destructive policies?" If this be the case, why give the insignificant little coterie of American communists such an undeserved advertisement?

Of course, there are in some of our unions a handful of fanatics who believe that by destroying the unions they will bring nearer the social revolution. But why magnify their influence and not leave this matter to the various international unions by themselves instead of exaggerating it into a national policy, as General Secretary Baroff has so rightly stated at the conference? Why this Don Quixotic fighting of wind mills and this putting on the same level of the enormous menace of organized

capital with the mysterious little followers of "European fanaticism?"

We wish to draw the attention of our readers, particularly those who are always prone to regard the A. F. of L. as a reactionary force, to the following passage in the declaration bearing on the injunction issue:

"The injunction as it is now used and abused in labor disputes is without sanction either in the constitution or in the fundamental law of the land. It is a pure usurpation of power and authority. The only possible and practical remedy lies in the face of a power so usurped and so completely unjustified lies in a flat refusal on the part of labor to recognize or abide by the terms of injunctions which seek to prohibit the doing of acts which the workers have a lawful and guaranteed right to refuse to do, or which seek to compel workers to do those things which they have a lawful and guaranteed right to refuse. This is the only immediate course through which labor can find relief and this course it purposes to pursue. Labor realizes fully the consequences of such a course but in the defense of American freedom and of American institutions, it is compelled to adopt this course, be the consequences what they may."

We can fully appreciate the wrath which this statement has provoked in the reactionary and conservative press of the country. "If the workers declare their purpose to disobey the law as it is being interpreted by the courts," says the "New York Times" in commenting upon this passage, "and they refuse to recognize injunctions, it does not mean that they are merely insisting upon their rights. It means rather that they are declaring war upon all the upholders of law. To substitute the will of the workers for the law, would mean to transform America into a Russia, no matter how cleverly this purpose may be twisted."

As we see, the "Times" cannot be deceived by words. It perceives the essence of things and calls them by their right names. And thus all the efforts of the declaration with regard to denouncing the "followers of European radicalism" has been, after all, labor lost.

As we said above, the Washington "Bill of Rights" is far from satisfactory to us in more than one way. It is nevertheless an important document. We expect to reprint it in parts in some forthcoming issues of "Justice."

EXIT WILSON, ENTER HARDING

There is little to be said about Wilson. Already, the best and the worst that he has accomplished as President of the United States for the last eight years belongs to history, and it will, let us hope, give him a just verdict.

The most damaging testimony on the eve of Wilson's departure from power is presented in the fact that the "New York Times" has chosen to devote to him a farewell eulogy occupying eight pages of its Sunday Magazine and a full editorial page. Nothing could testify more eloquently to the fact that Wilson had not only not shaken the pillars of our beloved social system, but that he had never even attempted it. One of his very last acts,—to keep that old fighter for freedom, Eugene Debs, in prison for many more years, speaks just as loudly for the true Wilson, the unwashed Wilson, sodden with partiality and bigotry.

And now, when the White House is about to receive another tenant, we perceive not the slightest worry or anxiety. We say, things cannot be worse. They may be, quite unexpectedly, even better. The new president comes into office, to begin with, without any pretenses; he does not claim to be a radical or a liberal. He does not pretend to improve, to reform, or to be the bearer of a "new freedom." We shall not be disappointed with Harding. He will not deliver beautiful speeches; he will not write masterpieces in the form of Congressional messages. And who knows, perhaps this new president, who is an ordinary sort of a citizen, an average editor of a small town paper, might turn out to be a better president than the professor. At the editor of a provincial newspaper, he had likely come in touch with ordinary folk and he understands their minds better than the retiring academician.

We do not, for a moment, dare entertain hopes that President Harding will for a minute forget those to whom he owes his present exalted position as President of the United States. Perish the thought! Should he ever forget that, we are sure that his advisers would take care to remind him of that. Already Harding has appointed several men for members of his Cabinet who are absolutely unfit for it, but who had helped him greatly in his campaigns. We wonder if he will be just as grateful and solicitous of the interests of those millions of workers who have voted for him and had helped to elect him.

We are, for instance, inclined to entertain such a "wild" hope that despite logic, President Harding might, as one of his first official acts, release all political prisoners who still languish in American jails for their convictions; that he might, as soon as possible, abolish all the barbarous laws of the war period which robbed men of their most elementary rights, and that he might resume true relations with Russia. Wilson could not do all these things; he was a man of principles as you know. Harding, however, is a plainer citizen; he will not have such insurmountable obstacles in his way.

Wilson, as a blind follower of dogma, could not conceive of Russia having a government which interfered with his own conceptions. Harding is a more ordinary person and does not suffer, as yet, from such irrationality. The hope of many people, that he might improve present American relations with Russia is, therefore, not totally unfounded.

"DEMOCRATIC" AMERICA AND "LAZY" RUSSIA

STRAY THOUGHTS AMERY NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

By HARRY ROCOFF

Is there really such a thing as a national character? Is it true that the different peoples possess different psychological traits? The belief in the existence of marked psychological distinctions between nation and nation has been just as widespread among leaders of public thought, as among the great masses. The world, for instance, has accepted as a truism that a Frenchman is morally loose; a Russian is indolent; that an American is a democrat; and an Englishman is a liberal. We often hear it said that such and such a thing could have happened only in Germany and in no other country; that another thing could have occurred only in Mexico or any other place on the face of the globe.

How much truth is there in this concept? As long as the world lived in peace and each country was developing its destiny in its own way, it was plausible enough to assign to each land a distinct psychology. As America, for instance, was reputed to possess the freest political institutions the conviction became firmly rooted that the American people is democratic to its very core and that democracy is the very bone and marrow of the great American masses. On the other hand, as the most abominable, despotic political institutions have prevailed in Russia, and as that country has for centuries lain meekly under the yoke of an autocracy, an axiom was created that the Russian people did not have it within its psychological makeup to achieve anything worthwhile on its own account that it could only dream, move and philosophize, but could produce nothing concrete and tangible.

The war succeeded in demolishing a great many widely accepted and deeply-rooted notions. Among these post-war debris, we also find remnants of beliefs that have heretofore prevailed regarding national psychology and a national character. It appears, for example, that we have been deluding ourselves all the time concerning the characters of the Russian and the American peoples and, for that matter, the traits of many other nations

on this planet of ours. And the question arises: Was not the very basic idea regarding these matters a fundamental error? Is there any such thing as a national psychology?

Let us discuss some concrete examples. America has been sung and written about as a land of liberty, a land where the exalted principles of democracy have found their truest expression. The years of the war have, however, seen in this country such a multitude of violations of the elementary prerogatives of democracy, that earnest thinkers have begun to inquire as to whether democracy ever really existed here. In democratic America there have been enacted the most drastic laws against those who were dissatisfied with, or opposed to the war. In America the heaviest fines were imposed upon political non-conformists. In the smaller towns and cities of America, in particular, the individual lost all his freedom and personal rights, and even his right to property during the years of the war. He was compelled to buy liberty bonds; he was practically forced to spend money for war aims, and the life of those who dared to think otherwise than in terms of official prescription, was unsafe and intolerable. They could be lynched by a mob in the light of day and the law, the police and the courts would not protect them.

What has become during the period of the war, and for a long time afterward, of democracy, reputed to be so deeply rooted within the psychological makeup of the American people? This question stares awfully in the face of a number of publicists, psychologists and men of letters. At the beginning they sought to explain it away by one reason or another. It was said that the country was stricken with an attack of Martian insanity; that it was a passing fever which would soon disappear, and that the healthy instincts of the people would soon prevail. This, however, did not come to pass. The so-called war insanity has kept up here longer than

in the European lands that have suffered far greater from the ravages of the war. The American people tolerated the jailing of political prisoners years after the war had ended. The American people watched with indifference how a number of its noblest sons were languishing in jails freely—long after the European nations had freed their political offenders.

And when the investigators and analysts ventured deeper into this problem, they began to doubt the entire matter. They began to inquire whether the American people is, in fact, democratic and liberty-loving; whether it has, in general, any respect for the rights and liberties of the individual or for the rights of minorities who refuse to follow meekly the dictum of the majority. And having freed themselves of this fetishism, the investigators of our national psychological traits began to view things in a different light. The lynchings in the South and the callousness of the entire nation to the horrible persecutions the negroes were compelled to submit to in that section, appeared in a more simple light. American maladministration of its colonies—in Porto Rico, San Domingo, Haiti and the Philippines—took on a different color, and the attitude of our police and governmental authorities towards labor organizations, strikers and radicals in general assumed a different aspect.

There is a growing conviction today among thoughtful people that this whole matter of the American psychology is mere fiction. Quite contrary; it is asserted that the American is not democratic, but that his psychology is distinctly the psychology of the mob. He wants to follow, to imitate, to run forward in the direction of least resistance, to chase with the crowd and to disregard and trample upon those who dare to break away from the multitudes and go their own way. It is also asserted that in times of excitement the American is very apt to disregard law and right, and follow only the dictates of an over-

heated mind.

The accepted appraisal of the Russian character underwent, in the last few years, a no less striking revision. It was forever being asserted that the Russian is naturally lazy; that he is only verbose and without energy. And it was generally accepted that the Russian would be the very last one to attempt to rebuild the structure of society; that he would become altogether submerged rather than strain an effort to free himself from his oppressors and to grasp the reins of leadership in his own hands.

Then came the war and destroyed these prejudices. What the masses of people in any other country did not have the energy, daring and force to do, the Russian masses have done. They have forced their government to demand peace, and when this demand was not complied with, they took the power into their own hands and made peace themselves. They found enough leadership to make a social revolution at a time when all the other nations were treating Russia as a corpse. They had enough energy, physical and moral, to stand up with their bare breasts against the entire world, to starve, to fight, suffer and bleed, in order to reconstruct the social order upon a healthier and more humane plane. As a consequence, we do not hear nowadays any more talk about the Russian as an indolent creature. The Russian, that psychological attribute of the Russian, as a drowsy and impractical person, is beginning to disappear.

We have only touched upon a few high spots. It would be easy to multiply these instances by the dozen. The war and the peace that followed have worked havoc in the so-called science of national psychology. Once more the old assertion of the Socialist philosophy, that economic conditions play the first and most important part in the history of a nation, and that every people acts and lives principally in accordance with its economic environs, is being substantiated. The attractive features of democracy and liberalism, after all, have their roots in the same place as the repulsive features of indolence and fanaticism have theirs—in the economic institutions in the division of the masses in economic classes, and in the measure of influence of this or the other particular class in society.

NEWS FROM THE GARMENT WORKERS OF EUROPE

The General Office of the International has received the following communication from Brother T. Vanderberg, the secretary of the International Clothing Workers' Federation. It contains items of general interest to all our members, and like all other reports by Secretary Vanderberg, will be published in "Justice" from time to time:

"Dear Comrades: I gather from certain trade journals published by unions affiliated with our Federation, that attempts have been made by employers' organizations, both in Europe and America, to reduce the earnings of tailors and garment workers. Whenever these attempts present an international aspect, I have asked all affiliated unions to send me a report containing a concise account of these endeavors of the employers to reduce wages. The general office of the Federation is particularly interested to know whether the organizations of the workers have succeeded in defeating the machinations of the employers and whether strikes have broken out in consequence of these attempts. We are also interested to learn whether the employers have succeeded in reducing wages. A short summary of the state of the garment-making industry in each country would be of service. As soon as a sufficient number of reports come to hand, we shall advise the affiliated organizations and

send them a general summary.

NO EMIGRATION TO AMERICA

"It has been reported to me that garment and clothing workers are emigrating, or are making attempts to emigrate to America from Central Europe, and particularly from Poland.

"In view of the great unemployment in America and the present conflict between the American labor unions and the employers, it appears to us that for the time being it would be very undesirable for workers in the garment making trades to emigrate to America. An earnest warning should be given in the interest of European garment and clothing workers themselves, not to make any preparations for the journey to America. In Rotterdam, for instance, a port in Poland, from where many emigrants depart for America, a great number of workers, both men and women, from Poland are stranded at the present time. These workers have not been permitted to embark for America on account of stringent measures taken by the American immigration authorities. These workers have not only spent large sums for their journey, frequently their only savings, but are also expending now great difficulties and suffering.

"In view of the fact that representatives of various shipping companies are again endeavoring to induce work-

ers to emigrate, it is necessary to sound loud warning against emigration. I would ask you to insert a prominent notice to this effect in the columns of your Journal, and perhaps the general press, so that it might have the proper effect upon those who have made plans to leave their home countries for America.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF FURRIERS' UNIONS

"Arising from the decision of our international congress at Copenhagen, I have entered into communication with the International Secretariats of Journeymen Hatters and Furriers. Both secretariats have expressed themselves in sympathy with the resolution relating to organization by industry and have declared their readiness to cooperate in accordance with the spirit of the resolution. I am informed that the International Secretariat of Journeymen Furriers will convene in international conference some time during 1921. As some of our affiliated organizations contain also furriers, some of them having distinct furriers' sections, we think that for the time being it is desirable that no affiliated union of our Federation should accept any invitation to attend the Furriers' Convention, until a definite attitude will be decided upon with reference to the furriers' organizations by our Federation, in the near future."

A GREAT DEBATE ON THE OPEN SHOP.

Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union, and Walter Gordon Merritt, nationally known anti-union attorney, will debate "The Open Shop" at the Lexington Theatre on Sunday afternoon, March 13, at 2:15 o'clock. The subject, "Resolved, that the Open Shop is beneficial to the interests of the country," will be affirmed by Merritt and opposed by Furuseth. The debate is to be under the auspices of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society.

Andrew Furuseth is known throughout the world for his pioneer work in the organization of the Seamen's Union, which has been his life-work. He is the father of the La Follette Act, which is the Bill of Rights of the American seaman.

Walter Gordon Merritt is one of the leading figures in the "League for Industrial Rights," which formerly was the "Anti-Boycott Association." He was one of the leading attorneys for the employers in the Danbury Hatters' case, and likewise appeared as counsel for the employers in the recent Duplex Printing Press anti-boycott litigation. He has been one of the most persistent champions of anti-labor legislation.

Tickets may be purchased at the office of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, 70 Fifth Avenue; at the Rand School, 7 East Fifth Street, and after Wednesday at the box office of the Lexington Theatre.

Educational Comment and Notes

The Educational Booth at the Unity Bazaar

The Unity Bazaar came and went. In its wake, it left beautiful and pleasant memories. The thousands of men and women who visited it will remember many days the deep enthusiasm and spirit of good fellowship that prevailed.

The Bazaar did more than merely increase the funds available for the Unity House. It was a spiritual adventure, and produced greater feeling, stronger loyalty and increased devotion to the Union and its undertaking. Perhaps subconsciously, each worker felt that he was a part of a great and strong organization created by himself, and conducted for the benefit of himself and his fellow-workers.

Not least in importance among the features of the Bazaar was the booth of the Educational Department. It was not very much of a money-making spot. It is true that a number of books were sold and the proceeds donated to the Unity House. But more important than that was the interest it aroused among the visitors. Here was a definite attempt to bring to their notice the fact, that the International realizes the tremendous importance of education for its members, and devotes a large share of its energy to develop and train those members who are interested and who can be made to use their ability for the progress of the Labor Movement.

The two paintings exhibited in the booth produced a deep impression. In one, Labor stands erect and commanding, holding a globe in her hand. The meaning is clear. With the power of knowledge at its command, there is no limit to what labor can accomplish. In truth, the whole world belongs to it, if it but knows how to utilize its own power. The second painting represents a noble structure, the Worker's University, with many men and women flocking to it from many directions. It brought to mind the actual organization of our educational activities, where hundreds of serious and intelligent workers come weekly to the classes in pursuit of knowledge. Their interest in education is truly admirable, for, they hold fast to their ideals, in spite of the lure of moving pictures, theatres, dances, and other similar pleasures. They are certainly conscious of the fact that in the end their efforts will produce fruitful results.

The large chart which describes the courses given in the Unity Centers and the Workers' University provoked a great deal of interest. The visitors to the booth saw that the educational program of the International is more than mere matters. They realized that it is an actual reality, offering to the workers tempting subjects of study.

One of the concrete results of this Bazaar is the decision of the Educational Department to organize a course which will deal with the theory and methods of the Co-operative Movement. The Unity House project has certainly demonstrated what wonderful work can be achieved by co-operation. An increasing number of workers are becoming more convinced every day that it is only through co-operation that the worker will finally attain his goal. It is therefore important that our workers know more about the actual progress of the co-operative movement in Europe and America.

This course in the Co-operative Movement will commence very soon and will be in charge of one of the

best known authorities on the subject. The sooner prospective students register and the larger the number, the more successful this course will be. All who are interested, are therefore urged to communicate immediately with the Educational Department, and register in the office at 31 Union Square.

Miss Henrietta Cohen to Supervise Bronx Unity Center

The Educational Department was unable, for some time, to secure the proper person to supervise the Bronx Unity Center, P. S. 54, Freeman St. and Intervale Ave. but after much effort succeeded in having Miss Henrietta Cohen become the supervisor of this center and conduct the physical training activities on Thursday nights.

Miss Cohen assumed her new duties last Thursday evening, when she conducted her first class in physical training. Our members spent a very enjoyable evening in the "gym," and the class will continue until the end of the season. Miss Cohen is arranging additional activities for this center.

Talk on Labor Spies

A very interesting talk was given to the students of Dr. Leo Wolman's class last Saturday by Mr. Robert Dunn. He had spent considerable time in various industries investigating the work of so-called detective agencies, who seemed to specialize in furnishing spies in the industrial movement and whose function it is to report to the employers the activities of the unions, and, worst of all, to provoke labor organizations to acts of violence, strikes, etc.

Mr. Dunn told of his personal experiences in a number of establishments and showed to the class what dangerous results are liable to result from this iniquitous system. It was obvious from his talk that the workers must be exceedingly cautious and careful not to play into the hands of these provocators, who seem to infect the labor world just now.

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 22nd, all the Unity Centers were closed on account of Washington's Birthday, and our pupils enjoyed an evening's holiday. This week all the classes which meet on Tuesdays in the History of the Labor Movement, Economics, Modern Economic Institutions, Trade Unionism in America, resumed their sessions, and from now will meet uninterruptedly until the end of the season.

Due to illness, Mr. Max Levin did not conduct his classes in the Labor Movement today on Monday evenings, Feb. 14 and 21, at the East Side Unity Center, P. S. 63, Fourth St. near 1st Ave., and on Tuesday evening, Feb. 15, at the Lower Bronx Unity Center. We are glad to be able to report that Mr. Levin is much better, and he will resume his classes this week.

East Side Unity Center to Study Great Modern American and English Poets on Thursday Evenings

The class in Modern Social Drama, with Miss Ellen A. Kennan, at the East Side Unity Center, P. S. 63, Fourth St. near 1st Ave., will begin this week the study of modern American and English poets, whose works are considered as the best modern productions and who have been accepted as the representative great poets of today.

The American poets to be studied are: Louis Untermeyer, Vachel Lindsay, Amy Lowell, Carl Sandburg, Edgar Lee Masters, and Ezra Pound. The great living English poets to be taken up are: John Maclean, William Butler Yeats, Siegfried Sassoon, and Thomas Hardy.

The works of these poets have aroused a great deal of controversy because of their departure from the old poets, in style, method and content. Their vigor and response to modern conditions makes them extremely interesting to the reader today.

This class meets every Thursday at 8.30.

LECTURES ARRANGED FOR OUR LOCAL UNIONS

Co-operation and Trade Unionism
Mr. J. B. Ballin will lecture on "Co-operation and the Trade Unionism" for the Cloakmakers' Union, Local 11, and 9, Friday evening, March 4th, at Kruger's Hall, 430 Blake Avenue, Brownsville, at 8 P. M. Mr. Ballin will repeat this lecture for our members residing in Harlem on Friday evening, March 18, at the Harlem Educational Center, 62 East 106th St.

Dr. J. Mayson to Lecture
Dr. J. Mayson will lecture on "How to Live Hygienically" before the members of the Cloakmakers' Union at the Foreward Hall, 175 East Broadway, on Friday evening, March 11th, at 8 o'clock.

Dr. B. Dubovsky to Lecture
Dr. B. Dubovsky will lecture for the Examiners' Union, Local 82, on Monday evening, March 7, at the Stuyvesant Casino, 2nd Avenue and 9th St., on the topic: "How to Live Hygienically," at 8 o'clock.

Place of Organized Labor in the Modern Industrial Society

Cloakmakers' Union, Local 11, will have Mr. Max Levin lecture in "The Place of Organized Labor in the Modern Industrial Society" on Wednesday evening, March 9th, at the Labor Lyceum, Brownsville, at 8 o'clock.

Dr. B. Dubovsky to Lecture in Newark

Our members in Newark will have Dr. B. Dubovsky lecture on the topic: "How to Live Hygienically" at the headquarters of Local 21, 103 Montgomery St., Newark, N. J., on Tuesday evening, March 2nd, at 8 o'clock.

UNITY SPIRIT AT THE BAZAAR

By FANNIA M. COHN

An affair arranged by one of our Local Unions which brings together thousands of its members for a few pleasant hours of good fellowship and sociability, is more than worth the energy and effort expended. Especially is this true when there is a great idea behind the affair. Behind the Pageant-Ball-Bazaar of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union given last week, was the "Unity" idea—an appreciation of the great achievement in purchasing the Forest Park Home, which was formerly a summer resort of millionaires, and is now a summer Unity House for many thousands of workers.

Through it, the Dress and Waist Makers of New York City have set an example to the workers that the beautiful and comfortable is no longer the monopoly of a few—that the workers

who build palaces for others, and find their own ugly tenements for themselves, can be the possessors of a magnificent Unity village, whose houses are equipped with all the conveniences and comforts one can possibly imagine. It was a real pleasure and satisfaction to note that all the arrangements necessary for the undertaking of this Bazaar was made by a committee of members from the Dress and Waist Makers' Union, who were engaged at work in shops during the day, and made all the preparations in the evenings. It was their love, loyalty, devotion and sense of responsibility for the success of Unity House, which inspired them to make the Bazaar the tremendous success it was. Only those who arrange such affairs know what it means—know how much preparation, management, and labor is involved in such an enterprise. We members are learning to appreciate the fact that it is not only enthusiasm for an idea that brings its success, but that proper and careful planning, as well as efficient management, are also necessary. This accounts not only for the financial success of such an entertainment, but equally as much for its moral success.

But it was not only the planning that came from the membership. The program also consisted of numbers performed by workers. They constituted the chorus, which sang so admirably under the leadership of Mr. I. Piroshnikoff. They danced in the pageant, where they showed the

excellent training which they received from our good friend, Miss Lucy Betting. The climax of the entertainment was reached when views of the Unity House were shown on the screen, and our ever enthusiastic and beloved comrade, Jennie Matyas, stood on the platform, with hand outstretched, pointed proudly to the picture, exclaimed: "This is our charming lake at Forest Park, with its swimming docks and boats. These are the billiard rooms and bowling alleys, tennis courts, baseball grounds, 750 acres of woodland and mountain. There is the main building, with its twelve adjoining cottages, surrounded by gardens of flowers and forests of trees. All this belongs no more to the well-to-do, but to the 30,000 members of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union."

That all this was accomplished by an organization which is composed of better than 99 per cent women, is especially gratifying. The working woman who strives toward a new life, toward a life full of interest, who is active in the labor movement, in the economic as well as the political struggle, who is striving toward economic and social justice—the working woman who strives to acquire knowledge and enlightenment, this woman develops also a taste for the "beautiful and charming."

In her imagination replete with idealism, she visualizes a picture of a beautiful and ideal world—where the welfare of mankind will be the basis of society—where the world will be a cooperative commonwealth—where true love, friendship, and fellowship will replace selfishness as the basis of interest. This was the motive which prompted the members of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union to try to bring into realization at Unity House their visions of the future.

This is a splendid illustration of how our ideals and dreams of the beautiful future can be realized through the collective power of the modern trade unions. We all feel the great responsibility which our experiment has placed upon us as workers, particularly as we are denied the right to manage our own industrial affairs, and are aware that we are not "it." In this, our own enterprise, we are watched by friends and foes.

IN NEW JERSEY

The last few weeks have seen a great deal of activity in the small towns of New Jersey—Hackensack, Garfield, Passaic and Lodi. The reasons are twofold: first, the shops which have been closed during the slack season, have reopened; and second, the general strike in the waist and dress industry of New York.

The town of Hackensack has been affected more than any of the others, because it is an industrial center in New Jersey as far as the making of ladies' garments is concerned, having more shops and more skilled workers than any of the other towns. Many contractors in New York, affected by the strike in the waist and dress industry, thought this a good opportunity to come to Hackensack and the neighboring cities. In this way, they thought, they would have the New York work made in the shops of these country towns. The contractors, however, did not count on the extensive organization work undertaken by the Out-of-Town Department of the International in the above named cities.

No sooner had they opened their

shops, in Hackensack, which they still believed to be the "open shop town," than they encountered the obstacle of having the workers, all members of Local No. 134, refuse to work in unorganized shops. And not until a full week of fruitless efforts had been spent in this way, did they finally realize the uselessness of trying to get our men and women to work under non-union conditions. Thereupon, they called at the office of the Union and tried to arrange a settlement with Brother Weiss, the International organizer in Hackensack. Not until these contractors had given up all of the work they had from the striking firms in New York, and had obtained work from jobbers who had been investigated by the union and found to be satisfactory, did Local No. 134 of Hackensack, sign agreements with these firms.

Now only one contractor still remains on strike—the Lien Waist Co. But the prospects for settlement with this contractor are very bright and will doubtless be accomplished before

the end of this week. Thanks to the work of the Out-of-Town Department of the International the attempts of the employers to have strike work done in Hackensack have again failed.

The Out-of-Town Organization Department of the International is now conducting strikes in the following shops: The M. & M. Cloak Co., Scranton, Pa.; the H. Goldberg shop, Paterson, N. J.; and two shops in Hackensack, N. J.

The Department also announces two mass meetings—one in Passaic, N. J., on March 10th, at 250 Monroe St., and in Newark, N. J., on March 8th, in Union Hall, 163 Springfield Ave., with the following speakers: Mr. H. P. Hilfers, Secretary of the State Federation of Labor of New Jersey; Commissioner Kazalinski; Miss Melinda Scott of the American Federation of Labor; Miss Elizabeth Aldrich; Bro. M. Bruck and Vice-President Jacob Halpern.

ACTIVITIES IN LOCAL NO. 3
(Continued from page 3)

On Tuesday, February 15th, we had a great mass meeting in Bryant Hall. Brothers I. Feinberg, S. Nifne and some of the local officials addressed the meeting, which was, in every respect a fine demonstration of solidarity on the part of our membership. It is worth giving here some extracts from Brother Feinberg's address. He said in part: "The head of the Ladies' Tailors Union has had to be reorganized about every six months in the past, even though they abounded in 'revolutionary' phrasemakers. To my knowledge our employers do not care to which political party or to which wing of any political party the workers belong; what they are primarily interested in is that there shall be no union, and if there is a union, that it shall not be strong enough to protect the workers. Only then can the bosses be safe in the exploitation of their workers."

After looking over the record of the activities of our local during the short period since the amalgamation has become effective, we can come to the same conclusions which Brother Feinberg had pointed out in his address.

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The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

A few complaints have reached our office that some of the cloak cutters refused to pay the two hours' work tax for the benefit of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers who are out on strike, to their respective shop chairman. In every such instance the cutters have expressed themselves to be perfectly willing to donate two hours' pay, but were under the impression that the tax will be collected by Local No. 10. Wherever this misunderstanding was called to the attention of the office, Business Manager Perlmutter immediately got in touch with the cutters, and the matter was adjusted.

We wish to emphasize once more that this two hour's work tax is being collected by the Joint Board of the Cloak and Suit Industry through the shop chairmen, and a special stamp will be issued to those who have contributed.

Due to the fact that the Cloak and Suit trade is at present busy, things are running along smoothly, even in the shops belonging to members of the Protective Association. It seems though that this is the lull before the storm. There is no doubt but that the manufacturers are preparing for some drastic act against our union.

The trade papers have recently begun a campaign, supposedly for the lower cost of production in the industry. This campaign obviously is inspired by the Protective Association, for in connection with it a number of interviews with leading manufacturers, members of the Association, were printed in the "Daily Garment News". In every one of these interviews the blame for all the evils in the trade is being placed upon the workers.

Every day an editorial appears in the above-named paper on the same topic. One of these was headed "Mobilization," and ended with the following: "We hope that a showdown is near at hand." These editorials are exhorting the manufacturers to prepare for the coming struggle with our union. All these interviews and editorials are slaming at two things, and these are, putting the industry

back on a piece-work basis, and the lowering of wages generally. We don't know how soon the manufacturers will deliver their attack, and it therefore behooves us to be ready at all times so that we may not be caught napping.

As one means of preparedness, the Joint Board a year ago had levied an assessment on the members to raise a Million Dollar Defense Fund. Our members have been contributing cheerfully to this defense fund, but we take this opportunity to remind those who were for one reason or another delinquent in paying this tax, to do so at once.

The Cloak and Suit members are urged to attend the next meeting of their division, which will be held on Monday, March 7th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place, where the officers will render a report on the present conditions in the trade and the outlook for the future.

The situation in the Waist and Dress Industry is practically the same as it was last week, with the exception that a few more Association shops have settled, and that another two injunctions were served on the union by the firms of Baum & Wolf, and Reuben, Phillips & Cohen. The outcome of the injunction suit filed by Albert Fleischer and Co. is not yet known, as it has been laid over for Wednesday, March 2nd, and will be argued by Leonard M. Wallstein, Commissioner of Accounts during the Mitchell administration, who will represent the union.

The Twelfth Annual Ball of our union will take place Saturday evening, April 2nd, at Hunt's Point Palace, 163rd Street and Southern Blvd. The Arrangements Committee, headed by Financial Secretary-Treasurer Brother Joseph Fish, predicts that this coming affair will surpass any we have ever held in the past. The committee has succeeded in securing Professor Schiller's Jazz Band for this occasion.

Our members and their friends are advised not to make any other engagements for Saturday, April 2nd, as they are sure to spend a very enjoyable evening at the ball.

How Do You Read?

By ALEXANDER FICHANDLER

The art of reading a book is not as simple as many people think.

Many read book after book, but have confused ideas and notions of what they have read. Others, on the contrary, assimilate the contents of this book and have clear and definite ideas of the subject.

How can the latter be done? First, it is preferable to own the book you want to read seriously, because the points made in the book will stick to you better if you mark them as you meet them, and if the book is your property, you can mark it up as you please.

When you come across an interesting, important or significant passage in the book, underline it. This underlining will help to fix the thought in your mind.

In a well-written book, each paragraph contains but one idea or topic. Read one paragraph. Stop for a moment. See if you can pick out the one important point which the writer makes in that paragraph. Then write it out in the margin, just as briefly as you can.

If you follow this procedure with the whole book, when you get through with it, you will have a series of marginal notes which will practically

give you the content of the book in your own words.

If you will ever wish to refer to the book again and select its important points, all you will have to do will be to read your own marginal notes.

It has been the experience of most students that by following these two methods of procedure, that is, underlining important passages and writing out the main topic of each paragraph, they have profited greatly in their reading.

If possible, keep a note-book and note down in your own words the important thoughts or conclusions of the author, as you meet them while reading the book. This is the best method of all.

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Solomon & Metzler,
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M. Stern,
33 East 33d Street.

Max Cohen,
105 Madison Avenue.

Julian Waist Co.,
15 East 32d Street.

Drexwell Dress Co.,
14 East 32d Street.

Regina Kobler,
552 Fourth Avenue.

Doutz & Ortenberg,
2-16 West 88d Street.

J. & M. Cohen,
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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION

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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

CLOAK AND SUIT:	Monday, March 7th.
WAIST AND DRESS:	Monday, March 14th.
MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, March 21st.
GENERAL:	Monday, March 28th.

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

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